

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ERDA-05 ACDA-07 OMB-01

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SAM-01 /067 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7226

INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CNO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCEUR IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR IMMEDIATE

USNATO IMMEDIATE 1162

S E C R E T MADRID 7191

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MNUC, SP

SUBJECT: NPW VISITS TO SPANISH PORTS

1. WHEN I CALLED ON NAVY MINISTER PITA DE VEIGA MORNING SEPTEMBER 21 TO DISCUSS HIS POSSIBLE VISIT TO USS NIMITZ (SEPTOL). I TOOK THE OCCASION TO RAISE WITH HIM THE QUESTION OF NPW VISITS TO SPAIN. I TOLD HIM THAT WE CONTINUED TO ATTACH THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE TO THIS MATTER AND HOPED THAT WE MIGHT HAVE A FAVORABLE RESOLUTION IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

2. PITA DE VEIGA TOLD ME THAT AS A RESULT OF MY CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA ON AUGUST 30 (MADRID 6648) HE HAD RECENTLY GIVEN A STATUS REPORT ON THE SUBJECT TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. HE MADE CLEAR THAT HIS REPORT HAD BEEN FOR INFORMATION ONLY AND THAT HE HAD NOT YET REACHED THE STAGE OF ASKING FOR A GOVERNMENT DECISION. PITA DE VEIGA SAID THAT THE NAVY HAD WORKED IN CLOSE CONJUNCTION WITH THE SPANISH NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY AND THAT A TECHNICAL
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REPORT HAD BEEN COMPLETED SEVERAL DAYS AGO BASED ON

THE INFORMATION PRESENTLY AVAILABLE TO THE SPANISH NAVY AND THE NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY. HE RECALLED THAT THE SPANISH NAVY HAD ASKED THE U.S. NAVY FOR ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION AND THAT NO FURTHER PROGRESS COULD BE MADE UNTIL THAT INFORMATION WAS AVAILABLE. I TOLD PITA DE VEIGA THAT I HAD RAISED THIS QUESTION WITH THE U.S. NAVY IN WASHINGTON LAST FRIDAY AND HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THE AVAILABLE INFORMATION HAD BEEN COMPILED AND SHOULD BE REACHING US WITHIN THE NEXT DAYS AND THAT IT WOULD BE TRANSMITTED PROMPTLY TO THE SPANISH NAVY.

3. PITA DE VEIGA ASSURED ME THAT HE AND THE SPANISH NAVY WERE WORKING DILIGENTLY ON THIS QUESTION AND HE BELIEVED THAT ONCE THE REQUIRED INFORMATION HAD BEEN OBTAINED. IT SHOULD NOT TAKE TOO LONG FOR THE SPANISH NAVY TO COMPLETE IT REPORT. HE INDICATED THAT IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY FOR CERTAIN TECHNICAL DISCUSSION TO TAKE PLACE WITH U.S. NAVY BEFORE HE WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO MAKE A FORMAL RECOMMENDATION TO THE GOVERNMENT. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD WISH TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY PROBLEMS OF PUBLIC OPINION IN THE VARIOUS PORTS WHICH MIGHT BE CONCERNED AND INDICATED THAT HE EXPECTED PROBLEMS WITH CERTAIN NEWSPAPERS.

4. I EMPHASIZED TO PITA DE VEIGA THE NEED FOR AN EARLY RESOLUTION OF THE QUESTION AND ASKED HIM HOW LONG HE THOUGHT THE WHOLE PROCESS WOULD TAKE. WITHOUT COMMITTING HIMSELF TO ANY PARTICULAR DATE, HE INDICATED THAT HE WAS HOPEFULLY PROVIDED THAT THE SPANISH NAVY RECEIVED THE MATERIAL IT NEEDED FROM THE U.S. NAVY THAT PROCESS SHOULD NOT TAKE A GREAT DEAL LONGER. HE ALSO MADE THE SIGNIFICANT REMARK THAT THE DEFINITION OF THE AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST IN THE TREATY WHICH WOULD BECOME EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 21 UPON THE EXCHANGE OF INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION PROVIDED THE FRAMEWORK IN WHICH THESE NPW VISITS MIGHT TAKE PLACE.

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5. COMMENT: THE CONVERSATION WAS FRIENDLY AND CORDIAL AND I THINK IT IS USEFUL THAT THE QUESTION OF NPW VISITS HAS BEEN PUT BEFORE THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS FOR ITS INFORMATION. WHILE PITA DE VEIGA'S REMARK TO ME ABOUT THE AREA OF MUTUAL INTEREST IS A SIGNIFICANT ONE, I DO NOT THINK IT WOULD BE WISE TO JUMP AT ANY CONCLUSION ON THE FINAL OUTCOME OF THIS MATTER. HOWEVER, WE SHALL KEEP UP THE PRESSURES.

I FEEL CONFIDENT THAT WITH THE CONTINUING CLOSE AND
VALUABLE COOPERATION AND COORDINATION BETWEEN THIS
MISSION AND USCINCPAC WE SHALL BE ABLE TO OBTAIN
A FAVORABLE SPANISH REPLY.
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